

ART. XXI.—*Therapeutics and Materia Medica. A Systematic Treatise on the Action and Uses of Medicinal Agents, including their Description and History.* By ALFRED STILLÉ, M. D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania, etc. etc. Second edition, revised and enlarged, 2 vols. pp. 776, 819. Philadelphia: Blanchard and Lea, 1864.

It is only a little more than four years since we had the gratification of noticing the appearance of the first edition of Dr. Stillé's work on *Therapeutics and Materia Medica*. A second edition has been recently published. This fact, especially when we consider the size of the work, two volumes of about eight hundred pages each, is perhaps the best evidence of its value, and the most satisfactory compliment to its author. It requires some courage on the part of a publisher, to send forth two such portly volumes, in times like these, when the price of labour and material is so largely enhanced. We are sure that Messrs. Blanchard and Lea, liberal as they are in their catering for the medical profession, would have deferred the publication of the second edition of Dr. Stillé's work to easier and brighter times, if they had not been well assured of a demand for it. We are glad that the demand exists. It is a proof that the intelligence of the medical profession, in this country, is such as to require for their use handbooks of the most comprehensive character.

The present edition is gracefully dedicated to four of the author's professional friends. On the title-page it is described as "revised and enlarged." The character of the revision and enlargement is briefly described by the author in his preface to the second edition, as follows: "The nomenclature of the materia medica, and the formulæ for officinal preparations, have been made to conform to the recent edition of the *Pharmacopœia*, while a few medicines of minor importance contained in the first issue have been omitted. On the other hand, several new medicines have been introduced, and to almost every article important additions have been made. These, in the aggregate, amount to more than one hundred pages. The bulk of the work has not, however, been increased; on the contrary, by a new typographical arrangement, it has been considerably reduced. The indexes have been prepared entirely anew, and, it is believed, will be found to be more copious, as well as more systematically arranged, than in the first edition."

We do not propose to review Dr. Stillé's work at length. Our opinion of it was given to the public soon after the appearance of the first edition.¹ A further acquaintance with it has confirmed the favourable opinion we then expressed of it, and has also satisfied us of the justness of the criticisms we passed upon it. Since its first appearance, we have used it for reference in our daily professional labour, and have commended it to the favour of medical students and medical men. We can give no better evidence than this of the estimation in which we hold it.

Among the articles that are introduced into this edition and are not found in the first one, are oxalate of cerium, sanguinaria, elaterium, podophyllum, erigeron, oleum cadinum, and gossypium. They all possess a certain value, which renders them useful, and we are glad that Dr. Stillé has introduced them into his *Materia Medica*. His notice of the oil of cade is extremely brief, and scarcely conveys either a just notion of its therapeutical value, or of its various methods of application. Unless we are greatly mistaken, it is an agent upon which Hebra, whose authority in cutaneous diseases none will dispute, relies very largely for the treatment of a variety of affections of the skin. We were surprised not to find elaterium described in the first edition, and therefore welcome its introduction into this. A very good account is given of the physiological action of podophyllum, and its active principle, podophyllin, but its therapeutical virtues are "damned by faint praise." This, however, is better than the extravagant encomiums upon them which have appeared in some quarters. We are sorry that Dr. Stillé felt obliged to leave his statement of the prophy-

¹ Vid. Am. Journal for April, 1860.

lactic virtues of belladonna in scarlatina unchanged, or rather, that during the interval between the appearance of the first and second editions of his work, he did not find reason to alter his opinion, and consequently his statement with regard to it. We cannot agree with him on this point, and do not believe that the best observers in our profession do.

As we are not reviewing Dr. Stillé's work, it is time that we should bring our notice of it to a close. But we cannot do so without again commending it to the profession as a work of great value on materia medica and therapeutics, and one highly honourable to the literature of our country.

E. H. C.

ART. XXII.—*Lectures on Venereal Diseases.* By WILLIAM A. HAMMOND, M. D. 8vo. pp. 287. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1864.

THESE lectures were prepared originally to be delivered before the students at the Baltimore Infirmary, in the year 1862. Five of them were published, in June and July of that year, in the *American Medical Times*; the others were never delivered, and have not before been printed. Those published were characterized by the clearness and distinctness with which the doctrines taught were exposed, so that a volume comprising the complete series was received with pleasure.

The author, in his preface says:—

"These lectures are not published as a complete treatise on venereal diseases. They fall far short of that point, and are not, therefore, to be classed with the excellent work of Dr. Bumstead, which is as complete in plan as it is sound in practice, and which covers all the ground a work of the kind can cover, and better, too, than any other volume on the subject with which I am acquainted. They are believed, however, to embody, so far as they extend, in a small compass, the main practical points of doctrine and treatment; and they contain some results, based upon my own observations, which are now first published, and which I think are of an important character.

"As they were originally intended to represent my own views, rather than to be made up of citations from other authors, I have not deemed it necessary to give, to any great extent, the opinions of others, except when I have adopted them as my own, or when they tended to clear up doubtful points. If the lectures contribute towards extending a knowledge of the important class of diseases to which they relate, they will accomplish the chief end which leads to their publication."

These lectures are twenty in number; fifteen treat of primary venereal ulcers and syphilis, and five of gonorrhœa. Describing these affections as they exist, and giving simply the opinions held by the author in regard to them, without stopping to discuss the views of others, and being written in a clear and easy style, they form an instructive volume.

Dr. Hammond teaches the duality of the venereal poison (p. 12); that the soft chancre is a local affection (p. 18); that the hard chancre alone infects the system (p. 62); that when the epidermis is intact, a chancre originates as a pustule; if it is abraded, as an excoriation (pp. 13 and 65); that the timely administration of mercury may prevent the formation of an indurated bubo after an indurated chancre (p. 74); that the *bubon d'emblée* is not impossible (p. 85); that the induration of a chancre is not the sign of infection already accomplished, but merely a part of the chancre itself (p. 261); and that the caustic plan of treatment of the indurated chancre may be practised with a reasonable prospect of success, if employed in the first six days after the appearance of the pustule, whether induration be present or not, while subsequently to that period the cauterization of an infecting chancre will generally prove unsuccessful, even if induration has not yet made its appearance (p. 88). On the subject of gonorrhœa he teaches that the virus of an infecting chancre, when deposited upon a secreting mucous surface, may give rise to an inflammation of that surface, attended with a muco-purulent discharge, without a chancre being necessarily formed, unless an abrasion exists; that the affection thus produced by the virus